



Town of Garrett Park
PO Box 84
4600 Waverly Avenue
Garrett Park, MD 20896

Regular Meeting of Town Council
Garrett Park Town Hall
10814 Kenilworth Avenue
Garrett Park, MD 20896

Town Council Meeting: July 8, 2019

MINUTES

Call to Order – Mayor Kacky Chantry called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM. Present were Councilmembers Dan Simons, Stephen Paczkowski, and Hans Wegner. Also present were Town Manager Andrea Fox, Town Assistant Elizabeth Henley, Ed Lincoln representing the Bugle, videographer Al Faison and approximately six Town residents.

Mayor's Opening Remarks – Mayor Kacky thanked the Garrett Park Citizens Association and volunteers who organized the July 4th parade. Mayor Kacky, Councilmember Schulp and Town Manager Fox returned from the Maryland Municipal League (MML) Conference a week and a half ago. Conference highlights included learning best practices and opportunities for networking. Among the many topics discussed were a smart phone alert system, smart parking meter and enforcement, best practices related to budget, efficient meetings, public engagement, small cell towers, stormwater, and opioid addiction. It was also learned that many Maryland municipalities charge a stormwater fee based on non-permeable surfaces.

Approval of Agenda – The agenda was amended to remove the updates for the Arboretum, Archives, and Traffic and Parking as Councilmembers McClintock and Schulp were not in attendance. The agenda was unanimously approved as amended.

Approval of Minutes – The June 10, 2019 Regular Meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Presentation by Residents – As a new practice, residents were asked to keep remarks to three minutes.

- Resident George Martin (senior) was in attendance representing Holy Cross Parish. A 2002 SHA plan for Strathmore mentions a sidewalk and a bike lane on Strathmore. The recent support from the Town to request that SHA put in a sidewalk is appreciated. Based on SHA's 2002 plan, a bike lane should also be installed.
- A letter from our Legislative District 18 officials supporting this action is being circulated. Signatures will also include the Town Council and leaders of Garrett Park Estates/White Flint Park and Holy Cross. This letter is a step to document the support from the Town and the surrounding communities.
- Registered Landscape Architect Byrne Kelly from Takoma Park, MD was in attendance. Mr. Kelly will send a proposal to the Town regarding a stormwater improvement project at the Nursery School intended to help with the runoff on Holy Cross's property. The Town may be able to use the Montgomery County Rainscapes program.

Action

- Councilmember Paczkowski explained that the variance application for 4416 Cambria Avenue is regarding a teardown of a backyard deck that will be replaced with an open porch. This exception is acceptable per the ordinance. Councilmember Wegner requested that Council is provided three business days to review the materials when possible. The variance was unanimously approved.

New Business

- Policy for Town Groups – Councilmember Simons distributed a draft policy document regarding the process Town groups may use to request Town funds. The document was discussed by Mayor Kacky and Council. Some discussion ensued about the Open Meetings Act. Councilmembers Simons will prepare a revised document for the September Town Council meeting. Council and the Town Office will provide feedback to Councilmember Simons, then the document will be distributed to residents for their input. Mayor Kacky and Council discussed the implications of the pending Town groups policy on the midyear budget and if the Town's budget is currently structured to support such a policy. This was discussed as a potential topic for the September 21st Council retreat.
- Accessory Dwelling Units – Councilmember Paczkowski explained that for some time, the requirements to have an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) have made it difficult to have them in Montgomery County. The County Council is proposing to relax the rules to make it so property owners can build them. There are some potential impacts. The County Council is likely to pass it, and there will be a need for more study about how to address this for Garrett Park.
- Council Retreat September 21, 2019, 9:00 am at Town Hall – Mayor Kacky announced the upcoming Council Retreat. This meeting will be open to the public and among the topics that will be discussed are budget issues, priorities and goals for the fiscal year.

Town Updates

- Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Project – Mayor Kacky. The Town received a preliminary review from the State Highway Administration (SHA) late last week. The Town will formalize some documents per SHA's request. The Town does not yet have approval from SHA. The Town may also need approval from the Attorney General given the circumstances.
- Stormwater Task Force – Councilmember Wegner. A Task Force meeting was held with about 15 Town residents in attendance. The Town's (contract) civil engineer presented information on two conceptual proposals to mitigate stormwater drainage problems at the north ends of Rokeby/Kenilworth (near the bike path to White Flint Park) and Clermont/Montrose (across from Porcupine Woods). There will be a follow-up meeting in late July or early August to discuss outstanding issues and figure out how to resolve them. The Task Force will work with the Town Engineer to make sure there's agreement on methodology and calculation of flow.
- Communications – Councilmember Simons. The Committee discussed continued improvements to the website and the residents' portal, and how the portal could serve the same function that GPML serves, but in a more dynamic and contemporary way. The Committee recommended against a digital bulletin board in the Post Office. The Committee would like to use funding to hire an intern to do the work they have recommended and to streamline communication. The intern could also assist the Town Office or other volunteer committees.

- Historic Preservation – Councilmember Paczkowski suggested that a Landscape Architect could look at the vegetation at Town Hall with Town maintenance staff to understand which vegetation is meaningful and what can be removed.
- Strathmore Hill pedestrian warning light – Councilmember Wegner. SHA conducted two surveys at Strathmore and Keswick, including one on the weekend. The results of the survey have not yet been shared. Senator Waldstreicher was invited to observe the pedestrian traffic at the intersection.

Town Manager's Report - Town Manager Fox reported that the June Revenues, Operations, and Capital Budgets are at expected levels. This report will change again as the books are closed on the fiscal year. The Monthly Manager's Report was reviewed. There was one new building permit issued since the last Town Council meeting.

Adjournment: Mayor Kacky adjourned the meeting at 9:05 PM.



Signed,

Andrea Fox

Andrea Fox, Clerk-Treasurer